

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (New): A method of stapling sheets each carrying an image formed by an image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

designating a stapling operation for a stack of sheets, said stack of sheets including sheets of different sizes mixed together; and

stapling the stack of sheets only when each short edge of a large size sheet and each long edge of a small size sheet are identical in length in a direction perpendicular to a direction of sheet feed and when all the images formed on the stack of sheets have the same orientation when said stack is spread after stapling.

Claim 16 (New): A method of stapling sheets each carrying an image formed by an image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

designating a stapling operation for a stack of sheets, said stack of sheets including sheets of different sizes mixed together; and

stapling the stack of sheets at one of a position located at a top left of the sheets in a direction of a formed image, a position located at a top right of the sheets in a direction of a formed image, and positions located at a top edge of the sheets in a direction of a formed image, when each short edge of a large size sheet which has a portrait image and each long edge of a small size sheet which has a landscape image are identical in length in a direction perpendicular to a direction of sheet feed.

Claim 17 (New): A method of stapling sheets each carrying an image formed by an image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

designating a stapling operation for a stack of sheets, said stack of sheets including sheets of different sizes mixed together; and

stapling the stack of sheets at one of a position located at a left top of the sheets in a direction of a formed image and positions located at left edge of the sheets in a direction of a formed image, when each short edge of a large size sheet which has a landscape image and each long edge of a small size sheet which has a portrait image are identical in length in a direction perpendicular to a direction of sheet feed.

Claim 18 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming unit configured to form an image on a sheet in accordance with image data and print conditions;

a sheet feeding unit configured to feed a plurality of sheets to said image forming unit;

a sheet discharging unit configured to discharge the sheets coming out of said image forming unit;

a stapling unit configured to staple the sheets stacked; and

a control unit configured to control said sheet feeding unit to selectively feed pages with different orientations for printing and stapling together.

Claim 19 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming unit configured to form an image on a sheet in accordance with image data and print conditions;

a sheet feeding unit configured to feed a plurality of sheets to said image forming unit;

a sheet discharging unit configured to discharge the sheets coming out of said image forming unit;

a finishing unit configured to finish the sheets stacked; and

a control unit configured to control said sheet feeding unit to selectively feed pages with different orientations for printing and finishing together.